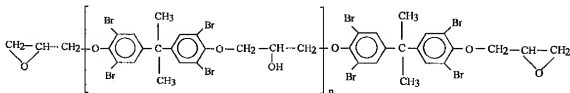
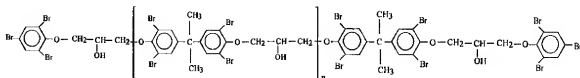


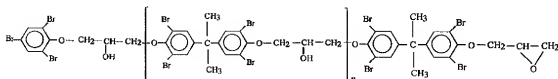
1. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant for polymeric compositions, minimizing corrosion of metallic parts, prepared by the method claim 22, which comprises a mixture of compounds of formula (I) and/or formula (II) and/or formula (III):



Formula (I)



Formula (II)



Formula (III)

wherein n is an integer; and

wherein at least 80 mol% of the end groups of all three formulae in the mixture are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups, and at most 20 mol% of said end groups are glycidyl groups;

said retardant being characterized by:

a molecular weight of between 7,000 and 50,000 Daltons;

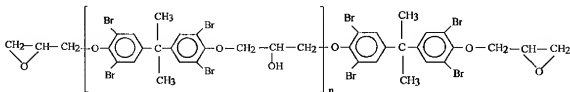
a free tribromophenol content less than 0.1 wt% of the whole flame retardant; and

a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of the whole flame retardant, ~~which minimizes corrosion of metallic parts.~~

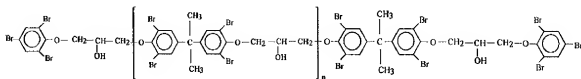
2. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant according to claim 1, wherein 85 to 100 mol% of the end groups are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups and 0 to 15 mol % of the end groups are glycidyl groups.
3. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant according to claim 1, wherein the content of said organic solvents with boiling point lower than 250°C, is lower than 50 ppm.
4. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant according to claim 1, comprising from 70 to 100 mol% of modified brominated epoxides BEs of formula (II), from 30 to 0 mol% of partly modified BEs of formula (III), and from 10 to 0 mol% of unmodified BEs of formula (I).
5. (Canceled)
6. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant according to claim 1, having molecular weight higher than 7,000 and lower than 30,000 Daltons.
7. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant according to claim 1, having an acid number less than 1 mg KOH/g.
8. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant according to claim 7, having an acid number less than 0.5 mg KOH/g.
9. (Currently amended) A flame ~~Flame~~ retardant according to claim 1, having an epoxy equivalent of more than 10,000.

10. (Currently Amended) A polymeric compositions, comprising a base polymer chosen selected from the group consisting of among polyethylene terephthalate, or polybutylene terephthalate, or mixtures of polyethylene terephthalate with polybutylene terephthalate, thereof, or polyamides, and or polycarbonate and or its alloys, and further comprising at least one flame retardant according to claim 1.

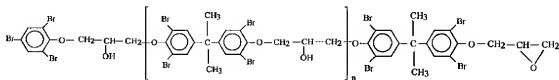
for polymeric compositions, which comprises a mixture of compounds of formula (I) and/or formula (II) and/or formula (III):



Formula (I)



Formula (II)



Formula (III)

wherein n is an integer; and

wherein at least 80 mol% of the end groups of all three formulae in the mixture are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl-groups, and at most 20 mol% of said end groups are glycidyl groups; ;

said retardant being characterized by:

a molecular weight of between 7,000 and 50,000 Daltons;

a free tribromophenol content less than 0.1 wt% of the whole flame retardant; and

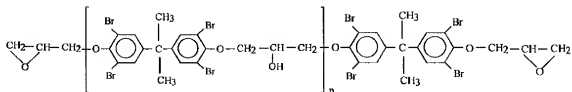
a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of the whole flame retardant, which minimizes corrosion of metallic parts.

Claims 11-19 (Canceled).

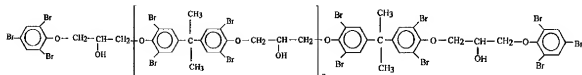
20. (Currently amended) A polymeric ~~Polymeric~~ composition according to claim 10, further comprising hindered phenol antioxidants.

21. (Currently amended) A polymeric ~~Polymeric~~ compositions according to claim 10, further comprising fillers and/or glass reinforcement and/or antioxidants and/or lubricants and/or pigments and/or anti-dripping agents and/or grades of talc that act as nucleating agents and that reduce the injection molding cycle time.

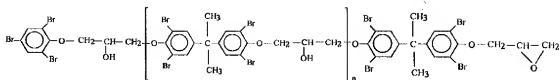
22. (Currently Amended) A method ~~Method~~ for the preparation of a flame retardants for polymeric compositions comprising a polymer selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate, mixtures of polyethylene terephthalate with polybutylene terephthalate, polyamides, and polycarbonate or its alloys, which retardant comprises a mixture of compounds of formula (I) and/or formula (II) and/or formula (III):



Formula (I)



Formula (II)



Formula (III)

wherein n is an integer; and

wherein at least 80 mol% of the end groups of all three formulae in the mixture are tribromophenyl-oxo-2-hydroxypropyl groups, and at most 20 mol% of said end groups are glycidyl groups;

said retardant being characterized by:

a molecular weight of between 7,000 and 50,000 Daltons;

a free tribromophenol content less than 0.1 wt% of the whole flame retardant;-; and

a content of organic solvents, with boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of the whole flame retardant, which minimizes corrosion of metallic parts;

said method comprising the step of preparing reacting low molecular weight brominated epoxide LMW BE, having a molecular weight of between 650 and 3,500 Daltons, and a content of organic solvents, with a boiling point lower than 250°C, lower than 100 ppm of the LMW BE, and reacting said LMW BE with tetrabromobisphenol-A (TBBA), and with a component selected from tribromophenol (TBP), tribromophenyglycidyl ether or a mixture thereof, in the presence of a catalyst, wherein said reaction takes place without addition of any solvent at a temperature of 100 to 250°C.

23. (Canceled)